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### ◆ Instructional Technology Update

*In its February issue, District Administration presented the Curriculum Web Site Awards for 2002. Noticing that five of the award sites participate in the MarcoPolo partnership, it reminded me of all the wonderful resources available to Missouri teachers and students. [And it's important to reflect, at least once in awhile, on the good things and not get mired in budget woes or other problems.] However, it also occurred to me that it is likely many teachers and students aren't aware of what all is available. If you haven't heard of any of the following, please check out our web site for more information and share what you learn with others. Note that these are just a sampling of effective programs and services available: MarcoPolo -- Internet content and professional development; Gates -- Missouri Technology Leadership Academy; eMINTS -- professional development and eThemes; High Plains RTEC -- Profiler, TrackStar, RubiStar, and NoteStar; SuccessLink -- TEAMS Distance Learning, Best Practices and Great Teaching Ideas; and, Finding Missouri: Our History and Heritage. --Deb*

## **FY02 Instructional Technology Grant Programs**

### State Education Technology Grants

FY 2002 --

Recipients of FY02 TAG and IDL grants can expect a second payment in March. These payments distribute another 25% of the approved state grant amounts, for a year-to-date total of 75%. As for the VIDEO Program, it is very unlikely that supplemental funds will be secured for the current year. Recipients should plan to only receive 25% of their state grant amounts. Twenty percent was distributed when the VIDEO grants were approved; the remaining five percent can be issued in May or June, whenever an FER is submitted and approved. **Note that all state grant funds should be obligated by May 1 and FERs submitted by May 15.**

FY 2003 --

The FY03 funding levels will be set by the General Assembly later in the spring. The Department requested these programs to be fully funded. Governor Holden, however, recommended cuts in several programs (including technology) to help fully fund the state foundation formula. Much will depend on the state's economy and the general revenues available for next year. While we anticipate being able to open the online applications in April, it depends on when the state budget is approved which may not occur until May.

### Federal Education Technology Grants

FY 2002 --

Second-year TLCF grant recipients also can expect a March payment, equal to 25% of their approved grant amounts. Projects can continue through September 30. FERs can be submitted when funds have been expended or when activities are complete; they are due no later than October 15.

FY 2003 --

Congress passed and President Bush signed the new education bill, No Child Left Behind (NCLB). Title II D of the bill provides funds for the "Enhancing Education through Technology" program that consolidates the current Technology Literacy Challenge Fund and Technology Innovation Challenge grant programs into a single state education technology program. Although funding levels will not be finalized until April, Missouri expects to receive approximately \$9 million.

The purposes and allowable uses of federal funds closely parallel those of the Missouri Education Technology Strategic Plan and the TAG and TLCF grant programs – to improve teacher preparation and delivery of instruction and student academic achievement through the use of technology. Also, there is a similar professional development requirement set at 25% of the federal grant amount.

By law, 50% of the flow-through moneys must be distributed to local educational agencies via formula grants (based on Title I percentages) and the remaining half, via competitive grants. At this time we project the formula / entitlement grants to consist of a base rate of \$5,000 plus a very small per-pupil allowance, with grants possibly ranging from \$5,040 to over \$200,000. There would be no match requirement.

Details about the competitive grant program are very tentative at this time, because the U.S. Department of Education doesn't expect to release administrative rules until June. Like the TLCF, we expect to issue two-year grants of up \$100,000 the first year and \$50,000 the second year. Priority would be given to districts that serve large numbers or percentages of economically disadvantaged children, districts in need of improvement or corrective action, and districts with substantial need in acquiring and using technology. Approvable projects would promote systemic, high quality, and research-based professional development. The tentative match rate is set at 10%.

To follow developments on the federal level, visit the NCLB web site at <http://www.ed.gov/nclb/> and Enhancing Education through Technology at <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/esea/nclb/partx.html/>.

#### TNP and eMINTS Programs

FY 2002 –

Annually, the Department contracts with MOREnet to administer the TNP and eMINTS programs. Last month it was announced that the state would be able to discount TNP participant fees by 40% and purchase the student PCs for the eMINTS Program.

eMINTS Report to State Board –

In January, Bill Giddings and Monica Beglau met with the State Board of Education to discuss the eMINTS program. Of particular interest was the latest report, "Analysis of MAP 2001 Results for eMINTS Students," which compares the performance of students enrolled in eMINTS classrooms with students not enrolled in eMINTS classrooms. The results show that the eMINTS experience has a positive impact on student MAP performance. Board members were impressed with the results and asked lots of questions about the professional development component and how it could be expanded across the state. The full report is available online at <http://emints.more.net> -- click on News and Events.

FY 2003 –

While we hope to be able to continue the TNP and eMINTS programs, we anticipate tight budget constraints. The Department and MOREnet must review the budgets and set priorities. Not only will the TNP fees will not be reduced for FY03, they likely will increase in future years. As for eMINTS, the implementation timeline will be delayed until budget details are more secure, and we expect that the project will no longer purchase teacher and student workstations for participating schools.

#### Census of Technology

2001 COT—

The Census of Technology report for 2001 is now available online. The report includes an executive summary of the 2001 data, longitudinal data for select items, and aggregate raw data for both census forms. The district and buildings reports are almost finished and will be posted soon. <http://www.dese.state.mo.us/computingcensus/2001/index.html/>.

2002 COT –

The 2002 Census will again be collected via the April cycle of Core Data Collection system. Note that the forms have been revised to better align the new state education technology plan.

#### **COT and Web Application Login Privileges**

In March, Instructional Technology will conduct a test run of email addresses for the upcoming Census of Technology and next year's grant applications. Districts should make sure the primary contact information is current and correct for both programs. To request changes in login privileges, go to <http://k12apps.dese.state.mo.us/webapps/logon.asp> and click on [Downloadable Login Request Forms](#). Complete the form and fax it to the number listed on the form.

#### E-rate Program and Internet Filtering Requirement

SLD Issues 13th Wave of Funding Letters for Year 4

On Friday, January 25, the Schools and Libraries Division issued 381 funding commitment letters. Wave 13 distributes \$79.7 million, and brings the total commitment to over \$1.93 billion. The funding letters include discounts for Priority 2 requests (internal connections) but only for applicants at the 88% to 90% discount level. Uncertainty still exists about requests at the 85% to 87% discount rates. Following the mailing, funding data is featured on the SLD website at <http://www.sl.universalservice.org/>.

Missouri Statewide Buy of Filtering Software

As mentioned in last month's Newsline, DESE, the Secretary of State's Office, and the State Library are working on a statewide purchase of filtering hardware/software, to help districts become CIPA compliant by the July 1, 2002, deadline. The intent is to lower costs of products on the state contract and subsidize the most used products.

The 2001 Census of Technology indicated that schools using filtering products predominantly used the same products. DESE asked the state's prime vendor, World Wide Technology, Inc. (WWT) to contact the companies offering the "top 8" filtering products, about a possible statewide contract or subsidy. We met with WWT on January 17, and decided to gather more specific information from the 5-6 vendors that agreed to the initial information request. The following revised timeline was established:

- January 17-30 – WWT and DESE create RFQ document that will ask for more detailed information and firm pricing from a total of 6 vendors
- February 1-15 – RFQ response window
- February 6-8 – DESE and State Library (SL) send "alert" letters regarding plans and upcoming information request
- February 15-20 – WWT will synthesize the responses into an at-a-glance chart
- February 21 -- WWT, DESE, and SL meet to go over price quotes and select top two to three vendors
- February 22-March 8 – DESE and SL develop "pre-enrollment" letter, forms, and timelines to distribute to schools and libraries ("pre-enrollment" letter describes the selected vendors and asks schools and libraries to indicate their plans to participate)
- March 11-29 – Pre-enrollment response window March 15
- April -- WWT will contact selected vendors and negotiate "subsidized" subscription rates
- May -- DESE will disburse funds; DESE and SL will notify schools and libraries of selected vendors and newer price rates
- May-June 30 – Schools and libraries may begin purchasing filtering options (Note that schools with available FY02 funds should act earlier, to have installed by July 1)
- July 1 -- schools can begin obligating FY03 funds for filtering options

## **Education Technology Planning**

### New State Education Technology Plan

The Missouri Education Technology Strategic Plan, 2002-2006 is near completion and will be made available online. The new state plan focuses on the same technology areas that districts are required, as of January 1, 2002 to address: 1) student learning, 2) teacher preparation and delivery of instruction, 3) management, communication, and administration, 4) distribution and use, and 5) technical support.

### State Approval of District Plans -- 2002 Cycle

Districts are required to have board-adopted and state-adopted technology plans. The next review of district technology plans is scheduled for April 19, 2002. Plans must be submitted by no later than April 10 in order to be included in this wave of approval. Questions about technology planning or about being an evaluator should be directed to Kathy Parris in the Instructional Technology section.

### ISTE's New Technology Support Index (TSI)

With support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) presents a framework that outlines effective technology support strategies. The TSI self-assessment tool allows school districts to appraise the quality of their technology support program and learn about possible improvements they can employ. It helps districts identify strengths and possible areas of improvement in the four distinct domains of the [Technology Support Index](#) — equipment standards, staffing and processes, professional development, and intelligent systems – and develop a technology profile and action plan for improvement in the district. Check it out at <http://tsi.iste.org/>.



## **President Signs Leave No Child Behind Act**

<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OUS/budnews.html>

On January 8, 2002, the President signed into law the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Congress passed the bill in late December after months of debate and negotiation. Total funding for K-12 technology-related programs comes to \$785 million. For more information go to <http://www.ed.gov/nclb>

Source: US Department of Education



## **MOREnet Trainers on the Road Again**

*--Submitted by Eric Nicklas, Program Manager, K-12 Technology Network Program, MOREnet*

MOREnet Trainers hit the road for the next few months to present training sessions around the state. Regional training will be offered in St. Elizabeth, Gallatin, Jasper, Chamois, Kennett, Charleston, Bolivar and Knob Knoster. Classes available at these regional sites include Search Engines, Mining the Deep Web, Beginning HTML, Networking 101 and Exploring MOREnet's Online Resources. Sign up now for training in your vicinity. For detailed schedules, course descriptions and registration information, go to <http://www.more.net/training/>.

Recently MOREnet has opened most of its training courses to all its customers' staff and faculty members. MOREnet offers a variety of training sessions appropriate for individuals with a wide range of technical skills and interests. For more information about these expanded training opportunities, see <http://www.more.net/training/opentrainingflier.pdf> or revisit the Expansion of Training Courses information in <http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divimprove/instrtech/newsletters/december01.html>.



## **Show-Me TechKnowledge Day**

The first annual Show-Me TechKnowledge Day will be held on March 21, 2002 from 7am to 12 noon, in the Capitol Rotunda on the third floor in Jefferson City. This is an opportunity for educators to showcase learning through technology to invited Missouri legislators, students, parents and visitors.

Fourteen schools from across the state will display outstanding technology projects currently being used in Missouri classrooms to enhance learning and improve student achievement. Because of time constraints this first year, participation is by invitation only but plans are underway to expand the Show-Me TechKnowledge Day in the future at both the local and state levels. More details will follow as they become available. Contact Judy Miller at [jmiller005@earthlink.net](mailto:jmiller005@earthlink.net) for more information about this year's event.



## **Missouri Schools in the News**

Wyman Elementary, Rolla

Congratulations to Mr. Christopher Wright and his second grade class at Wyman Elementary in Rolla, Missouri for being selected as the Eduhound spotlight Classroom of the Week. Check it out at <http://www.goneapeweb.com/wright/>

North High School, Lee's Summit

Floyd Pentlin, library media specialist at North High School in Lee's Summit, Missouri (identified as Florida in the article) was interviewed for the January 2002 edition of District Administration. The topic was Technology Integration. To read the entire article, <http://www.districtadministration.com/issues/story.asp?txtFilename=d:\webs\ca\issues\jan02\medi\aspec.html>

#### Moniteau R-1 Elementary, California

Students in Lori Mathys' and Ruth Ann Jobe's classrooms at California Elementary were selected by the Technology Leadership Academy to be featured in a special video. The video is an observation of eMINTS classrooms that will be shown around the state at the Technology Leadership Academy—a special professional development opportunity for Missouri principals and superintendents sponsored by the Gates Foundation. Lori and Ruth Ann had both prepared lessons and a WebQuest that showed the power of inquiry-based learning and technology to capture children's attention and engage them. The video will be shown in March-- it will be available on the MOREnet website after that time.



### **Email Safety**

*January 2002 Cyberscoop*

*Monthly Newsletter from TEAMS Distance Learning*

*Los Angeles County Office of Education*

With all that is happening in the world, you can help students feel greater safety and security by knowing what to do.

The White House is encouraging American students to exchange e-mail with young penpals in Islamic countries such as Bahrain, Pakistan, and Egypt with the Friendship through Education Organization <http://www.friendshipthrougheducation.org> to help promote peace and cultural understanding. This can be a very positive experience in the healing process for all concerned.

Most students are aware of the possibility of viruses being transmitted through e-mail. Even so, viruses and malicious codes continue to spread because they often look like they've been sent by someone known and trusted. Virus developers try to exploit the natural curiosity of young people and often give them titles that mask the actual content. Sites which normally seem helpful rather than harmful, but they contain attachments which could create problems.

1. If you have a "preview pane" in your e-mail program, close it. This is the feature that shows you the contents of an e-mail before you choose to open it.
2. Disable features you don't need on your Web browser that allow Java script and Active-X technology to function. This can prevent malicious scripts from infecting files or the entire network. Even the Web Buddy screen can be an entry for viruses.
3. Equip your computer with an anti-virus program, and update it with the most recent version. Make sure it will screen attached files and that it is run frequently.
4. Save attachments to a removable disk before opening. Then you can scan the disk with an anti-virus program before you see what is there.
5. Do not open e-mail attachments sent from strangers, regardless of the inviting title.
6. Be suspicious of any unexpected attachment even if it's from someone you know. It may have been sent as part of the virus without the trusted person's knowledge from an infected machine.
7. Verify suspicious e-mail. Contact the sender or program coordinator by telephone or send them a new e-mail to see if the attachment was supposed to be sent.

Students usually know more than their parents (and often their teachers) about both classroom computers and machines they may have at home. Help them safeguard your classroom and their



homes with these safety tips. Pass them on to parents and fellow educators to ensure they know what to do. You can help your classroom "family" feel safe when using available technology.



## **Olympic Torch Relay Visit to Columbia, MO**

*--Submitted by Bill Giddings, MOREnet*

Video clips from the Olympic Torch Relay visit to Columbia, Missouri on January 9, 2002, are available from <http://emints.more.net/resources/olympics/>. This site also includes links to download a free RealPlayer basic as well as links to other Olympic Games sites and eThemes resources. Questions or comments? Feel free to contact MOREnet Communications at [publish@more.net](mailto:publish@more.net)



## **Learning With Technology**

*---Featuring Columbia 93, Carthage R-9, and Plato R-V*

### Columbia 93

The teachers at Parkade Elementary School decided in the fall of 1998 that our technology needed a drastic overhaul. Most classrooms had one old Macintosh computer, when it worked. There was not Internet access. Software in the building was old, outdated, and often did not work. With the help and support of the school's administration and the Instructional Media Services Director, Parkade teachers applied for a Technology Literacy Challenge Fund Grant for the 1999-2000 school year.

It is important to note a few details about Parkade Elementary School. Parkade's student population is a mixture from varying backgrounds. At the time:

- \*\* There were 540 students in the school.
- \*\* 57% of the students qualified for free or reduced priced lunch. (That number is now over 60%.)
- \*\* 19% of the students had an I.E.P. (Individualized Education Plan) in place.
- \*\* 5 students had at least one parent incarcerated.
- \*\* 18 students were living in foster care.
- \*\* 43% of the students were from minority populations.
- \*\* The mobility rate was 29%.
- \*\* The school office handled 1,085 discipline referrals during the 1998-1999 school year.

The goals and objectives for the TLCF Grant involved more than just getting cool technology into Parkade Elementary School. We needed tools to reach all kids, no matter what their backgrounds offered. We needed all teachers to be proficient with the technology to be able to integrate it into the curriculum. We hoped that improved technology and improved curriculum would lead to increased motivation to learn, increased desire to be in school, and improved academic achievement.

The TLCF Grant was the beginning of an amazing transformation at Parkade Elementary School. The TLCF Grant and the school district's match provided each fourth and fifth grade classroom with 5 computers, a scanner, laser printer, SmartBoard and projector, and hours of technology training for all teachers at Parkade.

The interest in technology was so strong by the whole Parkade staff, which led us to be a part of the eMINTS program. Two fourth grade classrooms were outfitted with 12 computers, scanner, digital camera, color printer, SmartBoard and projector, and 175 hours of technology training over two years. A year later Parkade became a pilot school, where all of our third through fifth grade classrooms are involved in the eMINTS program. We have one computer for every two students. The teachers have been involved in 175 hours of training over two years. The Parkade staff not

directly involved in eMINTS has benefited from technology training, too. Six non-eMINTS teachers have created web pages for their classes. All technology classrooms are buddy classes with the primary grades. This allows all students access to the technology!

Have the TLCF Grant and eMINTS helped us achieve our goals? You bet they have!! Teachers have shown significant improvement in technology literacy, as measured by the Teacher Self Evaluation Rubric developed by Bellingham, Washington Schools

- Student daily attendance in fourth and fifth grades is 96%. This exceeded the grant goal of 95%.
- Parkade Elementary fourth graders showed significant improvement on the state assessment, MAP. On the 2000 social studies MAP, 16.47% of the fourth graders scored in the top two levels, proficient and advanced proficient. On the 2001 social studies MAP, 32% scored in the top two levels. This exceeds our goal of 3-5% increase in the top two levels.
- Parkade Elementary fifth graders showed significant improvement on the Columbia Public Schools social studies assessment. The goal of a 25% increase was exceeded with an overall increase of 27.75%.

The Technology Literacy Challenge Fund Grant created a phenomenal pedagogical shift in the teaching and learning at Parkade Elementary School. Teachers and students are excited about learning and want to be in school! The technology is being implemented across the curriculum in all grades. We welcome visitors to see how exciting learning can be! For more information, please contact [bbaker@columbia.k12.mo.us](mailto:bbaker@columbia.k12.mo.us), our principal.

#### Carthage R-9

The Writing to Go project for the Carthage R-9 Junior High School funded through TLCF funds has allowed our students classroom access to online research, e-mail, multimedia presentations, and electronic writing tools that are relative to the world in which they live. Available resources include EBSCO, Newsbank, SIRS, Gale Data Bases, automated library files, Microsoft Word 2000, PowerPoint, Publisher 2000 and Front Page 2000. The emphasis of the program is to improve the writing skills of our students across the curriculum.

Three mobile writing centers consisting of 15 laptop computers connected to the current network by a wireless connection were purchased. The writing centers also house scanners, VCR's and SmartBoard equipment. Digital cameras were also purchased. In addition, TLCF funds have been used for extensive training for several faculty members throughout the district. This training, as well as the equipment, has helped the staff to begin reaching the following Writing to Go goals:

First Year Goal: Provide new technology and training for ninth grade communication arts teachers in order to implement a new writing program. This training and technology will result in an increase of 10% in writing achievement scores of ninth grade students as indicated on the writing evaluations by Missouri Southern State College students.

Second Year Goal: Provide training for junior high staff members by the previously trained ninth grade communication arts teachers in order to implement the new writing program in all subject areas and grade levels at the junior high using new technologies in its implementation.

Third Year Goal: All trained teachers will be successfully using the mobile writing centers in all subject areas. District technology monies will be used to maintain and repair the existing mobile computer labs and will help add more mobile writing labs as needed.

Since the implementation of the TLCF grant, all elementary schools in our district have also added equipment such as mobile labs. Recently, local PTAs matched district funds and helped purchase SmartBoards for those elementary schools without them. With the implementation of the Writing to Go program, students have been able to research online in the classroom instead of having to share the limited number of computers in our media center. Students have also been



able to produce PowerPoint presentations, write, edit, and publish their writings more efficiently, and stay up to date with the ever changing world of technology. For more information contact Jenny Bogle at [bogle@carthage.k12.mo.us](mailto:bogle@carthage.k12.mo.us)

#### Plato R-V

"School is really cool." Did you see how amazing it was to see the heart actually pumping blood? It was just like seeing an actual war zone. It is much easier to relate to than just reading a book."

Enthusiasm for learning is what technology has brought to Plato Junior High School. Students are able to see an amazing ray of things through the use of technology. They can communicate instantaneously with scientists, mathematicians, family members, and other students throughout the world using email. Reports are no longer just written documents but presentations including graphics, music, art, and the written word. Students are engaged, remaining on task, and working with enthusiasm as they learn. Discipline referrals are on the decline because students are motivated to both learn and remain in the classroom setting.

Most small rural schools just don't have the same advantages as urban schools. There is just never enough money and the parents of just 550 students can't do it all. There are no technology fundraisers headed up by big corporations because small rural areas don't house corporations. However, due to Missouri's technology grant programs, rural schools and urban schools have the same chance of receiving grant funding for technology.

The Plato School District has been most fortunate in receiving the TLCF grant for two years to fund an elementary computer lab and put computers in all of the elementary classrooms. By utilizing the computers, third grade students ranked 87.8 on the most recent MAP reading testing while seventh graders scored 78.4. Four third and fourth grade classrooms have entered into the age of technology due to funding from the eMINTS project. What an amazing sight to see a Power Point presentation on habitats produced by the grade students! Funding for a second TLCF grant was received by the district in 2000-2001 school year and what a transformation occurred. The seventh, eighth and ninth grade students have a modern technology lab complete with a smart board. Additionally, through this grant funding all teachers of these students received extensive training so that the technology did not go unused. For more information contact Brandi Couch at [BCOUCH@plato.k12.mo.us](mailto:BCOUCH@plato.k12.mo.us)



#### **Interactive Distance Learning in Action**

*--Submitted by Julia Ray, Buchanan County R-IV School District*

The Western Missouri Educational Consortium began when Buchanan County R-IV decided to explore alternative methods of course delivery to expand offerings for their students. Superintendent Lane Novinger and technology committee member Julia Ray had contacted Missouri Western State College in St. Joseph MO, as well as other districts in the area about costs, equipment needs, and of course, academic offerings. Four districts East Buchanan, West Platte, North Platte and Buchanan County R-IV decided to band together and go forth.

After surveys, meetings and investigative teams, the project was funded with an Interactive Distance Learning grant from DESE and funds from each district. Equipment was delivered over the 2000 Christmas break. Coursework began with an ACT Preparatory Course already offered on the Missouri Western State College campus. Teachers revised the delivery methods of the class to fit their network, and took turns teaching the class to familiarize all the sites with sending and receiving classes.

As the second year approached, principals for all the schools gathered to discuss offerings and enhancements. A reimbursement arrangement was made, and courses for the 2001-2002 were set. French, College Algebra and Trigonometry are being offered.

The future looks bright for the students in these four rural districts. For information about the consortium, please contact Julia Ray at [rayj@bcr4.k12.mo.us](mailto:rayj@bcr4.k12.mo.us) or at 816/685-3211 or Lane Novinger at 816/685-3160.



### **Professional Development Tip of the Month**

*---Submitted by Sharon Sumner, eMINTS Teacher, Sullivan School District*

(NoteStar is from the High Plains RTEC, the makers of TrackStar and RubiStar, two of my favorite research tools. Be sure to read the blurb about NoteStar to understand exactly what it can do.) <http://notestar.4teachers.org/>

I wasn't sure if my fourth graders would be able to use this. However, they were able to load it (NoteCards and NoteStar) on the menu bar of Internet Explorer with no problem (they put it in Favorites in the Links folder and it appears on the menu bar). Their typing skills have improved tremendously and keeping notes on the computer proved to be easy for them. In fact, they can cut and paste a lot of what they need for research. The tedious part of research has been magically removed for them, and they are now focusing on the content needed to create the best presentation ever. They are very excited about this project, and I think NoteStar has a lot to do with it.

We are doing a schoolwide project called Reaching Out to the World. Fourth Graders are studying Europe. I created a website for fourth grade to use to help in their research. I used NoteStar as part of this project. It took some time at first to set NoteStar up for each student, but it was worth it. I was able to describe the project and assign students to work in groups. There is a feature that lets us send messages back and forth. I am able to keep track of their progress. They can work at home if they wish. The list goes on and on with everything this tool can do. The students were able to login to NoteStar with no problem and create topics for their research. This feature actually becomes a rubric for the information they need to collect. The NoteCard portion is used to capture information they find for each topic. It automatically creates a bibliography of their URL's to use in their presentation. I even tweaked it so they could use it as a bibliography for graphics and information found in books. My kids were really impressed with the bibliography!

NoteStar has allowed my students to view research in a completely different way. Instead of focusing on one aspect of what they are looking for, they are now looking at the whole picture. They are actually reading the site, and using the "rubric" as a guide, quickly capturing the information and saving it to its proper category in a matter of seconds. They were not able to comprehend this before when they were tediously writing information down. They couldn't possibly organize that information as easily as NoteStar allows. Once they've saved their notes, they can view them in NoteStar, organize them the way they want, and add new topics (which some of my kids did on their own). When finished researching, they can print out their notes and begin using their own words to create a PowerPoint on their country.

As you can tell, I am sold on this tool as a fantastic research aide. To view our project information go to <http://eagles.k12.mo.us/sumner/2001.2002/schoolwideproject/default.htm/>. To learn about other HPR\*TEC resources, visit <http://www.hprtec.org>

\*\*\*\*\*

*Recently we had our schoolwide project night, and the research the students did using NoteStar really paid off. Parents and visitors were most impressed on what they had done and things they had learned. Our Travel Agency was a big success! Below are pictures of the night as well as a rubric I created on HPR\*TEC's RubiStar now online.*

Reaching Out to the World  
[Schoolwide Project](#)  
January 17, 2001

Reaching Out to the World Travel Agency  
Mrs. Sumner's Fourth Grade  
Room 202 - Third Grade Hall

Students in Mrs. Sumner's class were travel agents employed by the "Reaching Out to the World Travel Agency". Visitors to the agency's "Open House" picked up a passport, then virtually toured countries of Europe. Once they had toured a country, they received a "stamp" for their passport. One of the students even set up a snack bar for weary travelers. The class treated Mrs. Wright's class to a virtual tour the next day.

[Click on an image for a larger view.](#)



You, too, may virtually visit European countries by clicking [here](#). We hope you enjoy your visit as you learn about the countries! (The students researched countries of Europe using a variety of resources. They used the research tool, [NoteStar](#) to collect information needed to create a PowerPoint on their assigned country. NoteStar automatically created a bibliography of their online resources.)

[Passport Pattern](#)

[Reaching Out to the World Scoring Guide](#) - A free online rubric creator, [RubiStar](#), was used to create a rubric for scoring the European PowerPoints.

[Back to Reaching Out to the World Schoolwide Project](#)

[Back to Mrs. Sumner's Class Projects](#)

[Back to Mrs. Sumner's Fourth Grade](#)

[Email: Mrs. Sumner](#)



**Copyright Question of the Month**

**Q** May an educator (e.g., administrator, classroom teacher, substitute teacher, or student teacher) other district employee, volunteer, or others show an off-air program over a two-or three-day period or may excerpts of the program be shown in a distance learning class?

**A Yes.** As long as the program is used in face-to-face instruction, it may be shown in its entirety **one time** within ten school days from the date of taping. Excerpts may also be used (with proper copyright notice) provided the recorded program is not altered from its original content and is also shown within ten school days of the taping.

## Mark Your Calendar

### February

6	Newsline published online
7-8	eMINTS Winter Conference at MOREnet
12	Lincoln's Birthday—State Holiday
14	MO Rural Opportunities Council Telecommunications/Education Committee Meeting (1:15-3:30 p.m.) Governor's Office Building—Room 316, Jefferson City, MO
18	President's Day—State Holiday
25	Newsline articles due

### March

1	Newsline published online
14	MO Rural Opportunities Council Telecommunications/Education Committee Meeting (1:15-3:30 p.m.) Governor's Office Building—Room 316, Jefferson City, MO
21	Show-Me TechKnowledge Capitol Rotunda, Jefferson City, MO
25	Newsline articles due
31	Last day to obligate funds for materials, supplies and capital outlay (TAG, VIDEO and IDL Grants)

### April

1	District Technology Plans Due for State Approval
19	Reading of District Technology Plans for State Approval

## Upcoming 2002 Conferences

February 21-23	Interface A – Grades K-6 Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO <a href="http://muconf.missouri.edu/interface/">http://muconf.missouri.edu/interface/</a>
February 24-26	Interface B – Grades 6-12 Tan-Tar-A, Osage beach, MO <a href="http://muconf.missouri.edu/interface/">http://muconf.missouri.edu/interface/</a>
March 5-6	Annual Technology Conference University Plaza Hotel, Springfield RCET-SW
March 10-12	Annual Virginia Society for Technology in Education State Conference Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center; Dr. Daniel Arkin; <a href="http://www.vste.org/conferences/index.html">www.vste.org/conferences/index.html</a>

March 21-22	MOREnet Spring Technical Conference Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO Missouri Research and Education Network
April 14-16	Missouri Association of School Librarians (MASL) Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO
April 24-25	HELIX Conference Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO MERC (Missouri Education & Research Consortium) HELIX (Higher Ed Learning & Information Exchange Conference)
June 17-19	Teaching and Learning Conference Holiday Inn Select, Columbia, MO
October 6-8	Missouri Educational Technology Conference Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO Missouri Research and Education Network
October 13-15	Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education Joint Iowa ASCD ITEC Conference Des Moines, IA <a href="http://www.itec-ia.org">www.itec-ia.org</a>

## From the Mailbag

### **Coca-Cola Foundation Grants**

<http://www.coca-cola.com>

The Coca-Cola Foundation focuses on three areas for its philanthropic giving, one of which is support of innovative classroom teaching and learning in K-12 schools. In total, the foundation has contributed more than \$100 million to education since 1990. The foundation looks favorably upon programs that are small and well-targeted, i.e. those that help elementary and secondary students with a particular issue, such as civil rights or the environment. Funds can also be applied toward tuition for training that will result in new instructional techniques in the classroom. Public and private schools serving children of all ages may apply for these grants. Although the monetary size of awards varies, a quick review of successful applicants from the past few years indicates that grants of \$5,000 to \$25,000 are typical.

Deadline: Quarterly; next deadline in March 1.

Source: eSchool News

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### **AGS Product Information**

<http://www.agsnet.com>

AGS is a leading publisher of assessments, textbooks, and instructional materials for students with a wide ability range. AGS also offers three new Discussion Forums for psychologists, Vineland users, and speech and language professionals. The discussion Centers are open forums where professionals can interact. You can post questions, contribute your opinions, or simply see what other psychologists and speech and language professionals are talking about. To view the product information, go to <http://agsnet.com/Group.asp?nGroupInfolD=75100> or contact Colleen Swedberg, AGS Missouri Sales Rep for more information.

Psychologist Discussion Center: <http://www.BASCforum.com>

Vineland Discussion Center: <http://www.Vinelandforum.com>

Speech and Language Discussion Center: <http://www.SLPforum.com>

### **Cress Staff Development, Teacher Training**

[http://www.cressco.com/Teacher\\_Training.htm](http://www.cressco.com/Teacher_Training.htm)



K-12 educators, curriculum directors, principals and administrators will fundamentally change the way they update their curriculum. This engaging, hands on Internet training will be some of the best training they receive this year. 85% of past participants have said, *"This is the best teacher training I have ever had!"*

We show educators how to quickly find and manage new lesson plans that motivate their students not to float through school. If you need something new, exciting, and highly functional in today's digital economy this training will teach your staff how to update a lot more curriculum in a lot less time. The new lesson plans they find will be more motivating and will also connect to your STATE STANDARDS. Speed is an asset.

When we show teachers how to motivate their students using technology, their life is made easier. Knowing how technology makes their life easier keeps them coming back for more!

- Learn how to motivate students
- Identify which specific students to motivate
- Understand what our student motivation goal is, help the student learn how it all connects
- Hands on - Learn how to quickly find lesson plans that motivate using a variety of lesson plan databases
- Hands on - Learn how to use the *entire* Internet to find specific lesson plans that motivate specific students
- Hands on - Learn how to manage the new lesson plans electronically
- Discuss disintermediation and illustrate what disintermediation is
- And much more

**Your teachers will thank you and 85% will want more Cress training. That is what the evaluations tell us.**

**References, Training Outlines, Phone Numbers, Evaluations**

Mr. Tim Halloran, [Regional Office of Education 33 - Knox](#), (309) 345-3831

Ms. Cindy Langemack, [DuPage Education to Careers](#), (630) 682-7158, [Evaluations](#)

Ms. Shirley Barber, [Regional Office of Education 50 - St. Clair](#), (618) 235-2700, [Evaluations](#)

Ms. Vanessa Kinder, [Intermediate Service Center #4](#), (708) 754-6600, [Evaluations](#)

January Special Offer—Reserve your training before the end of January 2002 and receive a **FREE** set of [10 Student Motivational Videos](#) with guides. **This is a \$810 Value!** To learn more please call [800-637-2449](#) or click on [Interested](#)  
To remove please click on [Remove](#) with our apologies **100% Satisfaction Guaranteed.**

For more information go to <http://www.cressco.com/Teacher Training.htm> or contact Eric Cress, Cress Productions at **800-637-2449**

### **Blue Web'n**

Blue Web'n Update lists the weekly additions to Blue Web'n, a searchable online library of Blue-Ribbon Web sites sponsored by Pacific Bell. Blue Web'n sites are categorized by Grade Level, Content Area, Application, and Dewey Decimal Number.

Did you know that you can search the Blue Web'n database to access over 1200 great educational resources? Go to <http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/bluwebn> and either browse the content table, or conduct a search for age-appropriate materials (see the link to Grade Level search near the top of the page).

The Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center

<http://wildflower.avatartech.com/Plants Online/Native Plants/native.html>



At the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, learners of all ages can become familiar with regional flora and the natural biological diversity of the United States. There are great images of the flowers, as well as detailed information about the habitat and blooming seasons.

Grade Level: Early Childhood, Elementary, Middle School, High School, College, Adult/Professional  
Content Area: Science (Life Science) [Dewey #570], History & Social Studies (U.S. History)  
Application Type: Resource

#### Pi Day

<http://mam2000.mathforum.org/t2t/faq/faq.pi.html>

How many celebrations are there in your math class? Each year on March 14th many classrooms break from their usual routines to observe the festivities of "Pi Day" because the digits in this date correspond with the first three digits of (3.14). Activities may include investigations of the value of  $\pi$  by approximating the ratio of the circumference to the diameter of a circle. Some teachers choose to end their Pi Day celebration by eating pie!

Grade Level: Middle School, High School  
Content Area: Mathematics (Geometry) [Dewey #516], Arts (Visual Arts), History & Social Studies (World History)  
Application Type: Hotlist, Activity

#### Ad Dissection 101

<http://website.education.wisc.edu/rla/ADSITE/index.htm>

High school students take on the roles of scientist and media consultant to learn about advertising and how a print ad can affect and persuade readers. Students then apply their knowledge to design an ad to help consumers (and their classmates) recognize manipulation.

Grade Level: High School  
Content Area: English (General) [Dewey #800], Business (Marketing), History & Social Studies (Psychology)  
Application Type: Activity

#### **The Internet Coach**

<http://quicktips.apte.com>

Seen weekday mornings on the Discovery Channel's popular 'Assignment Discovery' show, The Internet Coach offers quick tips to help visitors better understand and use technology. The site is designed to give viewers a bite-sized introduction to a variety of topics such as how to change your home page, creating desktop shortcuts, and how to choose the right computer and software. The site uses QuickTime to stream tips through the Web.

#### **From the Annenberg/CPB Project**

THE ANNENBERG/CPB CHANNEL can be an EXCELLENT source of training for your staff. Check out their offerings and schedule at <http://www.learner.org/index.html> or <http://www.learner.org/about/faq.html> for Frequently Asked Questions.

#### Plan A Summer Institute

Consider using the Channel to deliver a workshop or course to your colleagues or staff in an "institute" format this summer. Beginning in mid-June and extending through August, many workshops or courses will be broadcast daily, Monday through Thursday, at the same time of day.

This will permit districts, regional agencies, and institutions of higher education to organize summer institutes around that broadcast and still schedule other activities. For example, a two-week institute could be composed of mornings spent on the Channel's workshop or course and

its related discussion, activities and other work, while afternoons could be devoted to curriculum planning and writing or involved in practice with summer school classes.

#### Summer Taping Made Easy

The summer "institute" format broadcast schedule also makes taping easier. Each day workshops or courses will be aired at the same time of day over two weeks. Make tapes in the summer to be used throughout the coming school year, or to develop a tape library for your district or agency.

#### When To Register

Now you can register for workshops and courses throughout the season, but it is strongly recommended that registration occur at least three weeks in advance of the start of a workshop or course. This is to ensure that support materials reach the Site Leader in time for distribution. Complete the form at [http://www.learner.org/channel/workshops/register\\_info.html](http://www.learner.org/channel/workshops/register_info.html) or call us at 800-228-8030



### **Internet Sites of Interest**

#### Accountability : Meeting the Challenge with Technology

[http://www.techlearning.com/db\\_area/archives/TL/2002/01/account.html](http://www.techlearning.com/db_area/archives/TL/2002/01/account.html)

Technology is coming to the aid of educators charged with assessing student progress as never before.

#### School Reform

[http://www.techlearning.com/db\\_area/archives/WCE/archives/edreform.htm](http://www.techlearning.com/db_area/archives/WCE/archives/edreform.htm)

These web sites provide information on current school reform initiatives and tools for looking at schools to determine what changes are needed. Some also show the links between using technology and changing schools.

#### Professional Development

<http://www.techlearning.com/content/outlook/pdq/>

Got an implementation problem? Someone may have a solution. Check out PDQ (Professional Development Quicktips) for new ideas every day and an archive of great strategies.

#### "TECHS4SCHOOLS" Offers Free Online Tech Support For Educators

<http://www.techs4schools.com>

Techs4schools is a free, interactive mentoring program that connects information technology professionals with schools to create a web-based support structure that teachers and schools can turn to for technology support and advice. Techs4schools was created to offer volunteers technical assistance to all district-and school-based teachers, technology coordinators, and integration specialists. New features on the site include easier online communication between teams, streamlined navigation, and a user login for access to the online community.

#### Homeroom Teacher is Home to a Wealth of Information

<http://www.homeroomteacher.com>

Designed by and for teacher and administrators, this newly redesigned site provides links to many education-related topics. Teachers in need of ideas can consult free online lesson plans or borrow images from a free database of educator clip art. Field trip and activity planners can check the weather where they're going with an interactive forecasting tool. The site also offers easy-to-find links to state departments of education and promotes professional discussion about current education-related issues through an online chat room and open teacher message board.

### **Valentine's Day**

Kid's Domain: Valentine's Day

<http://kidsdomain.com/holiday/val/index.html>

Valentine's Day @ ChildFun

<http://www.childfun.com/valentine/>

### **President's Day**

American President: Presidential History Resources

<http://www.americanpresident.org>

The American Experience/The Presidents (PBS)

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/presidents/indexjs.html>

[whitehousekids.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/kids/>

IPL POTUS—Internet Public Library's: Presidents of the United States

<http://www.potus.com>

This resource gives background information, election results, cabinet members, notable events, and some points of interest on each of the presidents. Links to biographies, historical documents, audio and video files, and other presidential sites.

### **100<sup>th</sup> Day of School**

100<sup>th</sup> Day of School—A to Z Themes and Thematic Units

<http://atozteachertstuff.com/themes/100days.shtml>

100<sup>th</sup> Day of School Ideas

<http://shade.grove.iup.edu/~njyost/KHI/Days.html>

100<sup>th</sup> Day of School Homepage

<http://www.siec.k12.in.us/~west/proj/100th/index.html>

The 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School

<http://www.geocities.com/jpieczko/100.html>

### **Newest eThemes Resources**

Olympic Winter Games 2002: Torch Relay

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000577.html>

These sites focus on the torch relay for the Winter Games 2002. Includes interactive maps, biographies of the torchbearers, and answers to common questions about the torch. There are also video, audio, and many photo files that document the flame's journey.

### **Caves**

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000527.html>

Sites cover the formation and ecology of caves around the world. There are many types of caves described including sea caves, ice caves and erosional caves. Also covers cave drawings and early humans. Sites have video, illustrations, and maps. There are links to eThemes Resources on bats and caves in Missouri.

### **Literature**

"Mr. Popper's Penguins" by Richard and Florence Atwater

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S0000056.html>

These sites have suggested activities and discussion questions for the book "Mr. Popper's Penguins." Includes links to eThemes Resources on penguins and Antarctica.

#### Geography: Western Region of the United States

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000574.html>>

These sites focus on the states in the West. Learn more about the history, land, economy, industries, and animals of this region. There are many photos as well as statistics that can be graphed. The following states are included: Alaska, Hawaii, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico. Also has links to eThemes Resources on the Midwest, South and Northeast.

#### Geography: Southern Region of the United States

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000575.html>

These sites focus on the states in the South. Learn more about the history, land, economy, industries, and animals of this region. There are many photos as well as statistics that can be graphed. The following states are included: Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware. Also has links to eThemes Resources on the Midwest, West and Northeast.

#### Geography: Northeastern Region of the United States

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000576.html>

these sites focus on the states in the Northeast. Learn more about the history, land, economy, industries, and animals of this region. There are many photos included, plus statistics that can be graphed. The following states are referenced: Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. Also has links to eThemes Resources on the Midwest, south, and West.

#### **Updated and Revised eThemes**

##### Animals: Penguins

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000128.html>

Learn all about the lives of penguins including their habitats, their adaptation to the environment, and their amazing ability to swim. See a live view of penguins from a Webcam and watch videos of penguins swimming and walking. These sites are filled with factual information, photos, and suggested classroom activities.

##### Antarctica

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000004.html>

Learn about life in Antarctica including the climate, explorers, animals, geographic features, and current scientific expeditions. Take a virtual tour of this cold continent and view 360-degree images.

##### Animals: Polar Bears

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000568.html>

These sites include many facts about polar bears, including their diet, behavior, and habitat. Watch short movies about polar bears, listen to audio files of their ferocious roars, and see live footage of polar bears in a zoo. Includes some suggested classroom activities relating to polar bears.

##### Natural Disasters: Earthquakes and Tsunamis

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000003.html>

These sites are about earthquakes and the tsunamis that they can cause. Includes how to predict earthquakes and what causes them. There are quizzes, animations, and simulations.

#### **Money, Business, and Economics**

[http://www.techlearning.com/db\\_area/archives/WCE/archives/moneych.htm](http://www.techlearning.com/db_area/archives/WCE/archives/moneych.htm)

Teaching children the importance of money and how to manage it wisely makes “cents” in a world where everything has a price. These web sites provide resources for teaching money-related topics.

